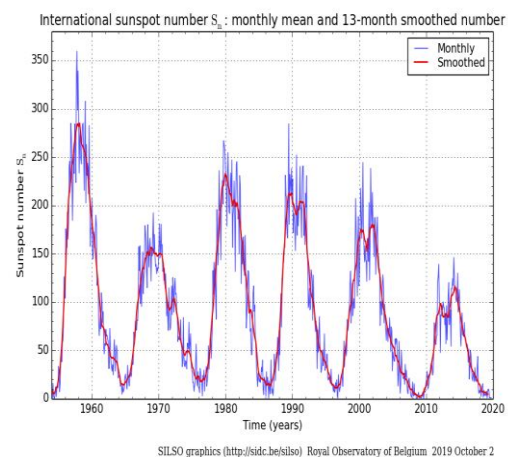
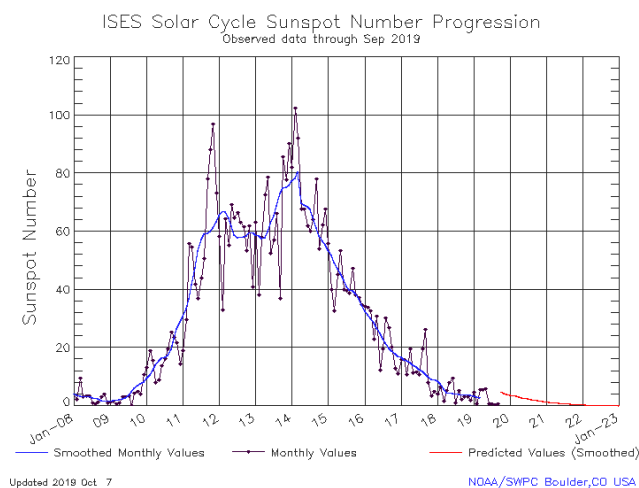


Dear Dr. Mulugeta Melaku,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to *Annales Geophysicae*. I appreciate your efforts when preparing such extensive comparative analysis. Recently the discussion on the manuscript is closed and I am coming to you on the status of your paper.

In general, the manuscript is well-written and the results are important for ionospheric and HF communities. Nevertheless, the paper has some shortages and inaccuracies. I guess that there is important to mention in the paper that although year 2013 was in the middle of the 24th solar cycle, but at the same time between two peaks of the maximum (not the maximum itself). During 2013 there occurred only three strong magnetic storms with $Dst < -100$ during 2013 (in the middle of march and at the beginning and at the end of June. On the other hand, the whole 24th solar cycle is significantly lower comparing with previous ones (see the figures below). My other additional comment is that the quiet geomagnetic conditions are considered when the Dst values not less than $-20nT$ (Dst values lower than -20 nT up to -50 nT means minor storm conditions). Also, according to both referee's comments, there is necessary to clarify some statements and information given.



Therefore, I suggest a major revision of the manuscript. Please, consider carefully and discuss in the revised version of the manuscript comments of both referees. One of them and me will read the manuscript again.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point which is being raised when you submit the revised manuscript.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

D. Buresova